

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 EURE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01
EB-08 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /072 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2533
INFO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6123

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PO
SUBJECT: AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. OVER WEEKEND PEDRO MACHADO, FONOFF OFFICIAL WHO HAS BEEN ASSISTING VILLAS BOAS (PRESENTLY ON VACATION) ON GOP AZOREAN WORKING GROUP. TOLD ME AZOREANS HAD REQUESTED INFORMATION ON US-GREEK BASE AGREEMENTS. MACHADO ASKED IF WE COULD PROVIDE APPROPRIATE MATERIAL.

2. COMMENT: AZOREANS HAVE BEEN COMMENTING BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY FOR SOME TIME NOW ON THE SUPPOSEDLY LAVISH SETTLEMENTS WE HAVE MADE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. THEIR INFORMATION COMES FROM OVERSIMPLIFIED PRESS REPORTS AND CONVENIENTLY OVERLOOKS SUCH FUNDAMENTAL FACTS AS NUMBER OF BASES, LOANS VS. GRANTS, ETC. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT COMPARISONS ARE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE, AND THAT WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING TO AZOREANS THROUGH GOP IS BASICALLY IN LINE WITH OTHER AGREEMENTS.

3. RECOGNIZING WASHINGTON'S NATURAL RELUCTANCE TO GET INTO COMPARISONS I, NONETHELESS, THINK WE SHOULD FURNISH GOP WITH FACTUAL DATA. FOR EXAMPLE THE DEPART-
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MENT'S PRESS RELEASE ON THE GREEK AGREEMENT CITES A FIGURE OF \$700 MILLION. WE CAN ASSUME AZOREANS HAVE THAT FIGURE AND ARE COMPARING IT WITH THE \$60 MILLION OFFERED TO THEM. UNTIL WE CAN MAKE THEM AWARE OF THE DIFFERENCES, THE AZOREANS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO DRAG THEIR FEET MAKING THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT BY SEPTEMBER VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

4. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE REQUESTED.
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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 08-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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